

## CLAIMS

1. An expander comprising:

a casing (11);

5 a rotor (22) rotatably supported in the casing (11); and

an axial piston cylinder group (56) arranged annularly in the rotor (22) so as to surround the axis (L) of the rotor (22), the rotor (22) being rotated by supplying, via a rotary valve (71), high-temperature, high-pressure steam to an expansion chamber (43) defined between a piston (42) and a cylinder sleeve

10 (41) of the axial piston cylinder group (56);

characterized in that a heat-insulating space (70) is provided at a position facing the expansion chamber (43) of the rotor (22).

2. The expander according to Claim 1, wherein the rotor (22) is formed by joining, in the axial (L) direction of the rotor (22), a first rotor half (33, 34, 35) retaining the cylinder sleeve (41), which is separate from the first rotor half (33, 34, 35), and a second rotor half (38) housing the rotary valve (71), and the expansion chamber (43) is sealed by interposing a metal gasket (36) between end faces of the first rotor half (33, 34, 35) and the cylinder sleeve (41) and an end face of the second rotor half (38).

20 3. The expander according to either Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein a cutout (57, 58) is formed circumferentially in the rotor (22), an outer peripheral face of the cylinder sleeve (41) being exposed through the cutout (57, 58).

4. The expander according to Claim 3, wherein the surroundings of the cutout (57, 58) are covered by a heat-insulating cover (40).

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